Atrocities committed on Women

390. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to look into the atrocities being committed on women in every field;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to hold conference of State Ministers concerned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects as per provisions contained in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime, including atrocities on women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has, from time to time, been writing to the State Governments stressing the need to take preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures in connection with crimes against women.

The measures suggested by the Central Government include, *inter-alia*, the appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers, setting up of Women's Cells in Police Stations, wider recruitment of Women Police Officers and gender sensitisation training to Police personnel etc.

(c) and (d) The National Commission for Women (NCW) had organised a Conference of State Home Ministers on 31st July-1st August, 1997 in New Delhi. The main objectives of the Conference were:

(a) Prioritise action to bring about a Society free from violence and gender discrimination.

(b) To assess whether there are lacunae in law which causes break down in law and order.

(c) Suggest measures for effective enforcement of measures by Police, Executive and the Judiciary.

(d) Discuss how and why crimes get institutionalised e.g. group/community rivalries make women pawn in their game.

(e) The need for sensitisation programmes for all in the criminal justice administration and justice delivery systems.

The Conference felt that there is urgent need to streamline the functioning of the various Agencies to provide speedier justice and redressal of grievances to bring about a better atmosphere for women's safety and security and promote gender justice and contain atrocities on women.

Loss incurred by Konkan Railway

391. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI N.R. DASARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Konkan Railway is incurring huge losses;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to reduce the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Konkan Railway has been opened to through traffic only on 26-01-98 and at present only six pairs of Express/Passenger trains are running on it. The Railway is now undergoing the gestation period for gradually maximising its traffic utilisation. It is, therefore, nothing unusual that the Railway may have to suffer some operational losses during the initial few years, till the full traffic is developed. The losses are appropriately accounted for in the cash flows. These losses cannot be termed as huge and can be brought under control.

(c) Steps are being taken to identify and run more traffic from the Indian Railways on to the Konkan Railway. Besides, major business development drives have been launched to augment traffic, the results of which will be visible after about a year.